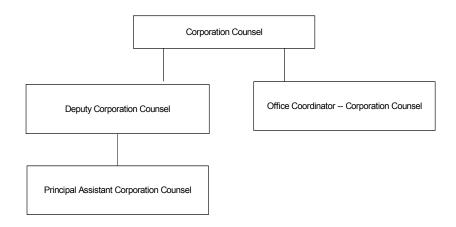
## **CORPORATION COUNSEL (1130)**



#### **MISSION**

The mission of the Office of Corporation Counsel is to ensure that Milwaukee County, its officers, employees and agents adhere to all applicable legal requirements, and to minimize personal and fiscal liability for the aforementioned group.

# **Budget Summary**

	2013	2012/2013 Change		
Expenditures	1,648,127	(71,754)		
Revenue	120,000	(35,000)		
Levy	1,528,127	(36,754)		
FTE's	19.0	0.2		

## **Major Programmatic Focus**

Maintain current level of services provided.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Maintain positive constituent relations by providing reliable services during times of personal crisis
- Respond timely to requests for legal advice.
- Provide zealous advocacy on behalf of Milwaukee County and its departments, divisions and elected officials.

### DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Corporation Counsel serves as chief legal counsel to all Milwaukee County departments, employees and elected officials. The three main functions are the provision of general legal advice, the provision of quasi-prosecutorial functions in mental health, guardianship and protective placement and open records and public meetings, and the provision of litigation defense services that are billed to the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation. By County ordinance, this office also serves as chief legal counsel to the Milwaukee County Employees Retirement System.

# 2013 Budget

### Approach and Priorities

Maintain current level of services provided on behalf of the citizens of Milwaukee County.

DEPT: Corporation Counsel

UNIT NO. 1130
FUND: General - 0001

## **Budget Highlights**

#### **Charges to County Departments**

\$88,044

The crosscharge from Corporation Counsel to individual departments for attorneys whose time is completely or partially dedicated increases \$88,044 from \$1,294,794 to \$1,382,838. This crosscharge is based on an hourly rate for the cost of staff and an estimated number of hours to be billed.

					20	12/2013
	2012 2013			Change		
Employee Benefits	\$	30,000	\$	35,000	\$	5,000
Child Support	\$	5,000	\$	2,500	\$	(2,500)
Airport	\$	295,338	\$	295,338	\$	-
Highways	\$	25,000	\$	10,000	\$	(15,000)
Behaviorial Health	\$	647,312	\$	700,000	\$	52,688
Aging	\$	99,232	\$	150,000	\$	50,768
Family Care	\$	102,912	\$	100,000	\$	(2,912)
Health and Human Services	\$	90,000	\$	90,000	\$	-
TOTAL	\$	1,294,794	\$	1,382,838	\$	88,044

#### **Outside Counsel**

On occasion, Corporation Counsel requires the services of outside counsel to protect the county's interests. The selection of outside counsel requires the evaluation of many factors, including the expertise and diversity of the legal firm or attorney, ability to meet required timelines and fees that reflect that the bill is being paid by the taxpayers. In order to improve the selection of outside counsel, Corporation Counsel is authorized and directed to develop a procedure that, at a minimum, incorporates the following:

- A maximum hourly fee cap and/or a process to obtain approval from the County Board for a waiver of the cap.
- An immediate notification of all County Board Supervisors whenever outside legal counsel is retained, accompanied by a written statement from Corporation Counsel why the case is not expected to exceed \$50,000.

Corporation Counsel shall submit a report to the County Board for review and approval by February 1, 2013, that describes the reformed process for selecting outside legal counsel.

DEPT: Corporation Counsel

UNIT NO. 1130
FUND: General - 0001

BUDGET SUMMARY								
Account Summary	2011 Actual		2012 Budget		2013 Budget		2012/2013 Change	
Personal Services (w/o EFB)	\$	1,716,493	\$	1,695,885	\$	1,607,709	\$	(88,176)
Employee Fringe Benefits (EFB)		950,300		968,302		972,902		4,600
Services		60,595		58,402		151,652		93,250
Commodities		24,687		19,100		27,000		7,900
Other Charges		1,298		10,000		10,000		0
Debt & Depreciation		0		0		0		0
Capital Outlay		0		0		0		0
Capital Contra		0		0		0		0
County Service Charges		300,762		262,986		261,702		(1,284)
Abatements		(1,467,506)		(1,294,794)		(1,382,838)		(88,044)
Total Expenditures	\$	1,586,631	\$	1,719,881	\$	1,648,127	\$	(71,754)
Direct Revenue		106,108		155,000		120,000		(35,000)
State & Federal Revenue		0		0		0		0
Indirect Revenue		0		0		0		0
Total Revenue	\$	106,108	\$	155,000	\$	120,000	\$	(35,000)
Direct Total Tax Levy		1,480,523		1,564,881		1,528,127		(36,754)

PERSONNEL SUMMARY								
	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	2013 Budget	2012/2013 Change				
Position Equivalent (Funded)*	19.7	18.8	19.0	0.2				
% of Gross Wages Funded	98.5	99.1	100.0	0.9				
Overtime (Dollars)	\$ 405	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0				
Overtime (Equivalent to	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
Position)								

<sup>\*</sup> For 2011 Actuals, the Position Equivalent is the budgeted amount.

PERSONNEL CHANGES									
Job Title/Classification	Title Code	Action	# of Positions	Total FTE	Division	Cost of Positions (Salary Only)			
None									
					TOTAL	\$ 0			

All departments are required to operate within their expenditure appropriations and their overall budgets. Pursuant to Section 59.60(12), Wisconsin Statutes, "No payment may be authorized or made and no obligation incurred against the county unless the county has sufficient appropriations for payment. No payment may be made or obligation incurred against an appropriation unless the director first certifies that a sufficient unencumbered balance is or will be available in the appropriation to make the payment or to meet the obligation when it becomes due and payable. An obligation incurred and an authorization of payment in violation of this subsection is void. A county officer who knowingly violates this subsection is jointly and severely liable to the county for the full amount paid. A county employee who knowingly violates this subsection may be removed for cause."